

and before that as mayor of his home town of Glen Cove, New York, that can serve as a blueprint for governments at all levels, and yes, even the Federal Government, to follow.

Upon his election as County Executive, Mr. Suozzi inherited a county that had amassed a debt of \$3 billion, had a junk bond rating and was ready to be taken over by State intervention. County facilities such as parks and public buildings were insufficient to meet the needs of the people. It has been said that 'Nassau County was not just on the brink of disaster, but rather had toppled over and was nearing terminal velocity.'

Today, Nassau County has not only turned the corner on its financial woes, it is a national leader with its innovative ideas to governing. Since 2001, under the guidance of Mr. Suozzi, the County has had a balanced budget every year; it has a \$200 million surplus; it has had ten upgrades in its bond rating to an A+ level currently, and most significantly, this has all been achieved without a tax increase in the last three years. It is important to point out, too, that during his tenure as mayor, Mr. Suozzi had very similar problems and very similar results.

Tom Suozzi is a visionary, looking to the future for ways to grow an economy and to make Nassau County and suburbs in general more affordable and livable for everyone, including seniors and our young people. But at the same time, he understands the benefits of suburbia and combines his vision for the future with the heritage of our past.

Mr. Speaker, Tom Suozzi has demonstrated to all of us that governmental problems of our past do not need to be transferred to future generations. They can be resolved with logical and brave initiatives. On behalf of this Congress, and Nassau County, New York that I proudly represent, I congratulate Tom Suozzi on being named Public Official of the Year 2005.

IT'S TIME TO PULL THE PLUG ON ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, the international community knows that the May 15 election in Ethiopia was rigged, and yet our government and other nations along with international banks and aid agencies, continue to prop up the corrupt regime of Prime Minister Meles Zenawi. Last week Meles security forces killed 76 members of the opposition party that refused to join the parliament and yet U.S. taxpayer money continues to flow.

Mr. Speaker, what will it take to turn off the spigot? The United States Agency for International Development in FY 2004 spent \$75 million propping up the Ethiopian dictators, in FY 2005 it was \$55 million and in FY 2006 it will be \$51 million. What have we received in return? We have aligned ourselves with a ruler who is complicit in the murder of voters who only wanted an honest election. Thousands of good people were arrested last week when they peacefully took to the streets after the Ethiopian political opposition refused to join parliament because of the rigged election. Many were greeted with live ammunition and gunned down dead like animals.

Prime Minister Meles must now step aside and the international community must step forward to decide what to do about the stolen elections. This week thousands came out to protest in front of the White House. Today many Americans of Ethiopian origin are demonstrating at the State Department. Our Nation must support them and democracy in Africa. Continuing business as usual with Ethiopia is not the way to do so. It's not the American way.

Let it be understood, America is on the side of the people struggling for an honest democratic government in Ethiopia. The popular opposition to Ethiopia's current corrupt regime is comparable to the Orange Revolution in Ukraine and the brave Lebanese demonstrators who removed the Syrian puppet regime in their country. Our State Department is often wrong and timid. In the case of Ethiopia, Americans clearly back democratic reform movement and that should be our government's policy.

A TRIBUTE TO BEBASHI

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor BEBASHI, as it commemorates its 20th Anniversary as the first minority-based AIDS Service Organization in the United States. It was created in 1985 in reaction to the growing rates of HIV/AIDS in the African-American community of Philadelphia. Initially established as a volunteer program focused on street outreach, BEBASHI has developed into a full-service agency offering counseling, testing, case management, support groups, a food bank, and housing counseling.

BEBASHI has improved the lives of people in our region and beyond through its research, advocacy and community service programs. I applaud this remarkable organization as it leads the way to better lives in the 21st century.

I also extend my best wishes and deep appreciation to the two exemplary individuals who will receive BEBASHI's John Allen Blue Award at the BEBASHI Gala on November 22, 2004. Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie and State Senator Vincent Hughes will be recognized for their long-term outstanding leadership and support to the HIV/AIDS community. They and BEBASHI are to be congratulated for their achievements and for leading the Nation by example to work towards further improvement in HIV/AIDS care and education.

HONORING JOHN LONG

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of John Long, former Pasco County School Superintendent and former Florida House member whose sudden death last week is a terrible loss for our community and State.

A Florida native, John earned his master's degree and doctorate in education at the University of South Florida. His impressive career with Pasco County Schools began in 1976, when he was hired to oversee employee relations, and culminated just one year ago when he retired after eight years of service as the Pasco County School Superintendent.

During that time, John became known far and wide as an asset to Pasco's families and school children—a dedicated servant to the schools, a highly effective problem solver and a fair and principled leader with an open ear to all of the school system's employees. Whether he was listening and responding to the concerns of teachers, parents and students or lobbying for Penny for Pasco, a penny increase in the sales tax which voters approved in 2004 to benefit school construction and renovation efforts, John earned great respect for his tireless efforts. In 2000, the Florida Association of District School Superintendents acknowledged his work by naming him Florida's Superintendent of the Year.

John also served Pasco County in the Florida House of Representatives from 1986 until 1994. During his tenure, John secured millions in State funds for his community and fought for fair funding for the State's public school system. John quickly became known for his integrity and his ability to bring his colleagues from both sides of the aisle together.

In fact, John was on the verge of becoming Speaker of the House when he walked away from his successful legislative career in order to spend more time with his family. John's departure from the Florida Legislature was a major loss to the State. John was truly a representative for the entire State, especially in improving public education for all of Florida's schoolchildren.

In addition to his enormous contributions to Florida and Pasco County's schools, John will probably be best remembered for his character. Always honest, always kind, John was beloved for his quick wit and his humble nature. I feel honored to have been among John's many friends. The vast community of those who loved John was deeply saddened by his loss.

When John retired just last year, we were all happy to know that he would be able to spend his retirement with his greatest love—his wife and children. Their time together was rich and full, but all too short. Today, I extend my deepest sympathies to Marsha, Jennifer and Jessica. John Long's remarkable character and contributions will not be forgotten.

HONORING GEDALE HOROWITZ

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gedale Horowitz on 50 years working with Salomon Brothers, Salomon Smith Barney and Citigroup.

A graduate of Columbia College and Columbia Law School, Gedale Horowitz has had a distinguished career dating back to November 1955 when he first joined Salomon Brothers.

His career with Salomon Brothers took off in 1967 when he became a General Partner. From there, Gedale would go on to serve on